



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org

August

3 and 4 - Hamnet Winter Challenge
4 - SARL HF Phone Contest (CQ ZS Contest)
8 - Eid-UL-Fitr
9 - National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
9 and 10 - Hermanus Wine and Food festival; Schreiner Karoo Writers festival, Cradock; Robertson Slow
16 to 18 - National Watersports Show and Dive Expo, Randburg
17 - RTA in Durban
18 - SARL HF Digital Contest
17 and 18 - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
23 to 25 - Tokyo Ham Fair
25 - SARL HF CW Contest
29 to 31 - Boertjie Kontreifes, Bultfontein
30 and 31 - Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
29 Aug to 8 Sep - Clanwilliam Wildflower Show

September

4 - Secretary's Day
5 and 6 - Rosh Hashanah
6 - Casual Day
7 and 8 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; RSGB SSB Field Day
12 - Closing date for October RAE
14 - Yom Kippur
20 - Schools close
21 and 22 - SARL VHF/UHF Contest
22 - Spring Equinox

Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

Issue: 566

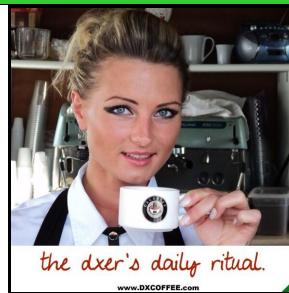
August 2013

SARL YL Sprint

This is a fun activity to celebrate Women's Day between radio amateurs in Southern African countries. Call "YL Sprint." The Sprint is on the air from 09:00 to 10:00 UTC on Friday 9 August. The exchange is a RS report and YL or OM.

It is a phone sprint on the 40 metre band (7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz). Contacts between YL stations are worth 5 points, contacts between YL and OM stations are worth 3 points and contacts between OM stations are worth 1 point.

Log sheets and summaries shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest by e-mail to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za. The closing date for log submissions is 17 August 2013.



CQ ZS = SARL HF Contests

The aim of the SARL HF Phone, Contest is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands. The Phone contest takes place on Sunday 4 August and runs from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC.

Participation can be as Single Operator Single Band, Single Operator All Band, Multi Operator Single Band or Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete.

Frequencies - SSB: 14 125 to 14 300 kHz; 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz

The exchange is a RS or RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. *General Rule 5.d - For contests requiring serial numbers, a single consecutive numbering sequence starting with 001, shall be used for all contacts. However, a multi-operator station transmitting on several bands simultaneously may at their discretion use separate number sequences for each band.*

SSB contacts count 1 point. Two points are earned for each area worked per band and a further two points for each station worked on all three bands.

Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 North West, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and Gauteng; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island.

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at
www.sotawatch.org

And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



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Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

The Silent Keys Memorial Trophy SSB is awarded by the Contest Committee to the amateur who achieves the highest score during the annual HF Phone Contest and the Joseph White Trophy is awarded by the Contest Committee to the amateur who achieves the highest score on any one band, during the annual HF Phone Contest. Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score.

Logs must be submitted by 12 August for the Phone contest and sent to zs4bfm@netactive.co.za.



African DX

Tanzania, 5H. Byron, KF8UN, will be active as 5H3BB between 2 and 20 August 2013. He will be there on a safari with his YL Sandy, K8FUN. Activity is possible on 40 to 15 metres, but mostly 20 metres and on SSB with some CW. He will use an IC-706 into a mag mount vertical and/or dipole. QSL via his home call direct (Byron Berger, 7474 Dale Hollow Circle NE, Massillon, OH 44646 USA).

Namibia, V5. Sergey, UX0HX, Max, UZ1HZ, and Alex, UT5UY, will be active holiday style as V5/home calls from Namibia between 1 and 8 August. They will operate CW and SSB on 80 to 10 metres. QSL for all of them is via UT5UY, direct or bureau.

Libya, 5A. Abubaker, DL1AL, is now active as 5A1AL from near Tripoli. Activity so far has been on 40, 30, 20 and 6 metres CW. He says that he will be active on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW and SSB [now for PSK, the modem does not work yet]. QSL via DL1AL.

Lesotho, 7P8. Frans, ZS4FM, and his xyl Francis, ZS4AM, Frans, ZS4FP, Jessica, ZS4JES, Brendon, ZS4BM, and his xyl Michelle will be visiting Lesotho from 8 to 11 August. They will be in the Ramabanta and Maletsunyane areas for Geocaching (www.geocaching.com). The group has two 7P8 calls, Frans, 7P8FM, and Brendon, 7P8BM, but they are looking at obtaining 7P8BFN for use by all. There is a chance of an entry in the SARL YL Sprint on 9 August 2013.

African Islands

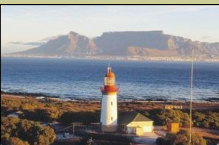
Canary Islands, EA8, AF-004. Rob, DL7VOA, is going for a holiday on Tenerife (DIE S-012, EAA TF, WLOTA 1276) between 4 and 17 August. He will be active holiday-style during the evening and night-hours mostly on CW. QSL via DL7VOA, direct or via the Bureau.

Reunion Island, FR, AF-016. Operators Jerome, FR1JB, Yvon, FR1GZ, Jacky, FR4NP, FR4DJ, Michel, FR4OA, FR4OM, Paul, FR4OO, Francois, FR4OS, FR4OU, Willy, FR4OV, FR4PE, Bruno, FR4PF, Jacques, FR4PG, Alain, FR5CU, Patrick, FR5FC, and Philippe, FR5HV will team up to revisit the volcano and UNESCO World Heritage site "Piton de la Fournaise" on Reunion (DIFO FR-001, WWFF FFF-011, WLOTA 1812) during 3 and 4 August. They will be active as TO1PS on all bands and modes. QSL via FR1GZ, direct or via the Bureau.

Lights Hunter Award 2013

To support amateur radio activity from lighthouses and lightships, the Brave Radio Friends offer this award to all interested lighthouse hunters (OP or SWL).

During the month of August 2013 work or hear as many amateur radio stations operating from lighthouses or lightships. A minimum number of ten lighthouses are required for the award.



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Application with log extract. Please, only use one of the following files - txt, doc, xls, pdf, jpg. The log extract must include the lighthouse name or number (preferably ARLHS number). No band or mode restrictions.

Deadline for application: 30 November 2013. Please do not send your applications before 1 September. The award is only available as a pdf. There is no award fee.

Send your application via e-mail to de3ear@darcd.de

Full details can be found at <http://braveradiofriends.weebly.com/>

SARL to Take the Next Step in the 5 MHz Propagation Research

The South African Radio League will activate a beacon on 5 250 kHz by the end of August. This was announced at the Radio in Action Symposium held in Port Elizabeth on Saturday 27 July. One of the HF transmitters at the NARC will be programmed to send signals at regular intervals and radio amateurs who have the relevant software will be able to record these signals automatically on their computers.

The software that will be used is ALE, which is a complex communications standard also known as MIL-STD 188-141 and USA government standard FED-STD-1045. In the past usage was limited to expensive military and commercial equipment with built-in ALE controllers. Fortunately all of that has changed with the development of software that runs on a PC and makes use of the sound card. ALE is now in regular use by radio amateurs all over the world.

ALE has the capability to call up a specific station, a group of stations, a net or just a general call not directed to a specific station (CQ). It is also possible to perform a sounding or short transmission to allow receiving stations to determine the reigning propagation conditions. The sounding can be (automatically) executed at regular intervals. A sounding typically lasts for 10 seconds and the repetition interval can be set in minute increments.

On the receiving side all the received soundings are displayed in terms of call sign, Bit Error Rate (BER), received Signal-to-Noise-Ratio (SNR) as well as the time that the signal was received. The above information is invaluable to determine the coverage and reception possibilities of a 60m transmission.

An article by Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, explains the full operation and will be posted on the SARL Propagation Research page on www.sarl.org.za during the coming week. The ALE software is free and has been included on the RTA CD. A link to where to download will also be provided on the SARL Web. It should be remembered that the use of 5250 and 5260 kHz is limited to SARL members who have registered only. Full details on how to register are on www.sarl.org.za, select the link on the right hand side of the home page.

Operating Out Of Band

Radio amateurs are advised to ensure that they operate according to the modes and frequencies as shown in the IARU Region 1 HF Band plan.

On Saturday 20 July, during the Winter QRP Contest, it was noted that three ZS1 stations were operating phone on 7 055 MHz which is in the digital segment. The phone segment on 40 metres starts at 7 063 MHz.

Radio Amateurs Should Aspire To Advance Their Art

Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, says, "Radio amateurs operated only on CW for many years until AM made its appearance, a mode that was resented by the vast majority because of its wide band signals. After World War II, AM became the fashion until it was ousted by the new duck talk SSB mode, which old-timers disliked intensely and battled to tune in. Now we are

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on the threshold of the new digital data and voice modes and we could expect the same objections until it becomes the norm.

Likewise, radio amateurs started on MF, and then were forced on to the HF bands where they could work their daily DX stations on certain bands but only at certain times. They started to conquer the technical problems present on VHF and the frequencies above including EME and satellite. When the ZRs were permitted to use the HF bands they deserted the VHF bands in droves, but unfortunately, this did not advance amateur radio at the least. Now is a very exciting time to be involved in radio science and technology and make a U-turn to go back to the future of amateur radio. This does not mean that one should sacrifice HF operation at all, but rather share your time to explore the exciting spectrum on VHF and above too and enjoy the best of both worlds."

2 Metre Beacon to Bridge the Indian Ocean

Roger Harrison, VK2ZRH, posted the following exciting news on the VK Logger, it reads: "Bridging the VHF path between South Africa and Australia across the Indian Ocean, spanning more than 8 500 km, is being attempted with a beacon in Perth on a frequency of 144,950 MHz. Established by the Northern Corridor Radio Group, the beacon VK6RIO, uses Chirp modulation, which can be detected some 50 dB below the noise floor in a 2 kHz bandwidth. The beacon employs GPS-locked frequency, time and Chirp synchronization, runs 100 Watts feeding 4-by-8 element Yagis aimed at South Africa. This was copied from the Amateur Radio Victoria website". Read more about it on the SARL VHF Forum.

Yasme supports developer of ViewProp

The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation is pleased to announce that it has made a grant to support further development of ViewProp, a new utility for propagation visualisation developed by Rick Kiessig, ZL2HAM.

ViewProp integrates information from the Reverse Beacon Network and worldwide spotting networks with station location information from QRZ.com and mapping through DXAtlas. The result is a real-time, worldwide view of amateur radio signals and operation. ViewProp also supports a "playback" function to review historical data and provides the user with a number of options to configure both the input data stream and the way in which the information is displayed.

Currently in beta testing by a global user's group, the Yasme grant will enable ZL2HAM to complete development with appropriate networked software tools and release it for public use.

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries. www.yasme.org

Summits On The Air

www.sotawatch.org and www.sota.org.uk

The Summits on the Air or "SOTA" award programme is continuing to generate interest and activity on the amateur bands. SOTA originated in the UK and has spread throughout the world.

How does SOTA work? Activators have to enter the top 25 m of the summit using non-motorised means. That usually means walking on foot but it can also be done riding a bicycle or an animal. They also have to carry all their equipment, including their radio transceivers, power supply and antenna, then get on the air and make at least four contacts



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from the summit to qualify for the points for that summit. Their power supply may not be a fuel-based generator. Batteries and solar are the recommended power sources.

Summits are given points values ranging from 1 to 10. Awards are available for activators and chasers. Activators scoring 1 000 points qualify for the Mountain Goat Award and chasers scoring 1 000 get the Shack Sloth award. There are certificates for reaching intermediate goals such as 250 and 500 points too.

What if you don't want to walk up hills? Those portable stations on hills need to contact someone and that could be you. In SOTA parlance, if you are not on a summit as an activator, you are a chaser. Simply exchange signal reports with an activator and you have made a valid SOTA contact. You can log it on the SOTADATA website. No QSLs are required.

Contest Calendar

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 2 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 3 August 2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 - 02:00 UTC 2 August

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 August 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 August 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

TARA Grid Dip Shindig

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 3 August

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: High Power; Low Power; QRP; Rover; SWL

Exchange: Name and 4-character grid square

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each grid square once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 August 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 29 July to 5 August 2013



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Post log summary at:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_score.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html

10-10 International Summer SSB Contest
00:01 UTC 3 August to 23:59 UTC 4 August
Mode: SSB
Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 19 August 2013

E-mail logs to:

tentencontest@roadrunner.com

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

European HF Championship

12:00 - 23:59 UTC 3 August

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: CW Only - high or low; SSB

Only - high or low; Mixed - high or low; SWL

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and 2-digit year first licensed

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each 2-digit year licensed once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12 August 2013

Upload log at:

http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf_log_submission.htm

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

North American CW QSO Party

18:00 UTC 3 August to 05:59 UTC 4 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 10 August 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/nagplogssubmit.php>

Mail logs to: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 1733 E. Broad Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

RSGB RoPoCo CW

07:00 UTC-08:30 UTC 4 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and previous postcode received

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

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HF Happenings

HF Happenings-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk

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Submit logs by: 20 August 2013

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/rropoco.shtml>

SARL HF Phone Contest

13:00 - 16:30 UTC 4 August

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band; SWL

Exchange: RS and serial no

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 12 August 2013

E-mail logs to: zs4bfn@netactive.co.za

Mail logs to: Bloemfontein ARC, Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324, South Africa

Find rules at:

[http://www.sarl.org.za/Documents/SARL Contest Manual 2013 Issue 11.pdf](http://www.sarl.org.za/Documents/SARL%20Contest%20Manual%202013%20Issue%2011.pdf)



CQFRIENDS

For free

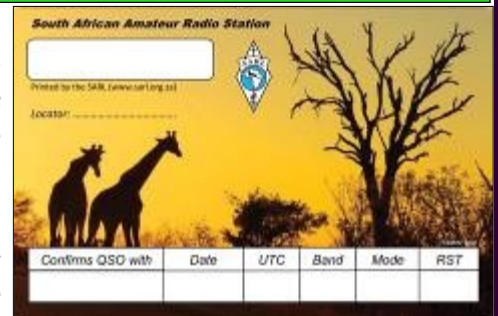
- The place to make friends,
- You're own website
- Find worldwide information about other stations
- and many more things !!!

Sign Up ► www.CQFRIENDS.com

SARL Member QSL Cards

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, postage included.

To order, pay the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL bank account - ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Then send details of your delivery address and the proof of payment to Willem, ZS6WWJ at zs6wwj@gmail.com and wait at your post-box for delivery!



Next Week's Contest

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 6 August

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 9 August

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 August

WAE DX CW Contest, 00:00 UTC 10 August to 23:59 UTC 11 August

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 10 August to 24:00 UTC 11 August

Maryland-DC QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 10 August to 04:00 UTC 11 August 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 11 August

50 MHz Fall Sprint, 20:00 - 24:00 UTC 10 August

History This Week for the week starting 29 July

1375 - First roller skating rink opens (London)

1809 - First practical US railroad track (wooden, for horse-drawn cars), Philadelphia

1872 - Mahlon Loomis patents wireless telegraphy

1899 - First motorcycle race, Manhattan Beach, NY

1956 - First motorcycle rides over 339 kph (Wilhelm Herz - 210 mph/338 kph)

1977 - Radio Shack issues a press release introducing the TRS-80 computer. Twenty-five existed, within weeks thousands were ordered

1983 - Official speed record for a piston-driven aircraft is measured at 832 kph in California

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News



KEEP CALM AND TAP OUT MORSE CODE

